

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated December 15, 2004, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration based on the above amendments and following remarks. By this Amendment, claims 1-4, 11, 12, 20-23, 30, 31, 42-45, 52 and 53 have been amended, and claims 10, 29 and 51 have been canceled. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as presented are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-63 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Xue. To the extent that this rejection has not been rendered moot by the cancellation of claims, this rejection is traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 1 recites a method for providing a status notification for a message in a communications network. The method comprises, *inter alia*, associating a destination identifier with a message. Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the "destination identifier comprises an address identifier indicating an address to which said status notification is to be sent, said address identifier indicating an address different than an originating address for said message; and a format identifier identifying a format for said status notification." As described in paragraph [00016] of Applicants' specification, embodiments allow a caller to leave a message and receive status notification on another device. The caller designates an address identifier and a format for the status notification.

Xue does not teach these features. Xue is directed to an email system that converts status notifications from multiple protocols into a standard, neutral protocol. Xue returns the status notification to the original sender's inbox. In analyzing original claim 10, the Examiner cites to Figure 8D, elements 834-840 as corresponding to the claimed address identifier and format identifier. Elements 834-840 represent messages to recipients with the corresponding status displayed after the recipient's name. These elements do not correspond to the claimed address identifier and format identifier in claim 1.

For at least the above reasons, claim 1 is patentable over Xue. Claims 2-9 and 11-19 variously depend from claim 1 and are patentable over Xue for at least the reasons advanced with reference to claim 1.

Independent claims 20 and 42, as amended, recite features similar to those discussed above with reference to claim 1 and are patentable over Xue for at least the reasons advanced

with reference to claim 1. Claims 21-28 and 31-41 variously depend from claim 20 and are patentable over Xue for at least the reasons advanced with reference to claim 20. Claims 43-50 and 52-63 variously depend from claim 42 and are patentable over Xue for at least the reasons advanced with reference to claim 42.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicants submit that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification to this effect is respectfully requested.

If there are any charges with respect to this response or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

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